

DATE: 30 January 1961

[Greek Press] INFORMATION ON MERTEN AFFAIR

1. [Greek Press] attended the "Makedoniki Estia" dance on Saturday evening with Anastasios Nestos and sat in the same table with Minister of Interior Dimitrios Makris and his wife. During the course of the evening Makris asked [Greek Press] whether he would be willing to go to Germany again, either in the immediate future or in about a month and a half, if such trip were considered essential so he could follow through on events there (meaning the Merten affair) particularly in connection with the Stefanopoulos libel suit against the German newspaper. If such trip was effected, Makris continued, he ([Greek Press]) should take precautions so that his mission will not be interpreted ~~as~~ as a Merten affair press mission but a general one. [Greek Press] answered that he doubted he could get away at the present time in view of the political developments that the whole affair can be discussed. Makris has been trying to locate [Greek Press] since yesterday.
2. [Greek Press] met this morning, at the office of Underminister of Press Tryfon Triandafilakos, Georgios Zotiadis. [Greek Press] has submitted a biographical report on him a few years ago. Zotiadis studied in the U.S.A., is highly intelligent, worked in the Underministry of Press and KYP about three years ago and has been in Nicosia, Cyprus during the last years working for the Greek Underministry of Press and KYP. While there he got married. He was urgently called to Athens for 3 days by the Greek Government to discuss the possibility of his being ~~in~~ sent to Bonn for special work) who stated the following:
  - a. The right wing followers of Grivas in Cyprus who are against the Zurich agreements are increasing in strength.
  - b. It appears that the Merten affair is assisted by Grivas and his followers with the main contact being Antonis Georgiadis, former deputy chief of EOKA and for a time Minister in the transitional Makarios Government in Cyprus, who is living in Germany as a student and spends his time between Frankfurt and Hamburg. He is in close contact with "Speigel" and the "Hamburg Echoe"

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2b.(continued)

and also with the Merten circle. He is also considered to be the main contact between the Merten circle and the political opposition in Greece.

c. The Grivas high command in Cyprus is highly interested in the Merten affair and is fanning the flames to the best of its ability. Recently the present German Luftwaffe chief visited Cyprus posing as a merchant and had discussions on the Merten affair with Grivas' men.

d. Definite elements in the circle of Merten obtained photostats of certain documents in Israel which indicated Merten's activities during the occupation in Salonika so that Merten can be kept in line and not be in a position to change course later if he so decided. Merten can be definitely blackmailed with the photostats in question.

3. [Greek Press] states that during his talks with Hynriech(sic) and Mensel(sic) editor-in-chief and reporter of the "Hamburg Echo" respectively, it was stated that a ~~XXXX~~ student in Germany was one of their informants in connection with the Merten affair. [Greek Press] wonders whether the student they mentioned could be Georgiadis.
4. [Greek Press] will be seeing Totiadis again and he will be talking to Minister Makris.

*'Publication of DRASIS in Salonika, shows Garachet's  
offices in Yacabasta 5.*

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